

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-07 SOE-02 DODE-00
DOE-15 SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 PM-05 /115 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:AATHIBAULT,JR.:RL
APPROVED BY P: AMB. NEWSOM
NEA P.W. LANCE

-----104736 151613Z /73

R 151415Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 122812

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, IN, PEPR

SUBJECT: INDIAN AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM

1. INDIAN AMBASSADOR PALKHIVALA, ACCOMPANIED BY TWO EMBOFFS, PAID A COURTESY CALL ON UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM ON MAY 12. DURING THE COURSE OF THE CONVERSATION PALKHIVALA RAISED THE NUCLEAR ISSUE AND INQUIRED ABOUT STATUS IN CONGRESS OF EXECUTIVE ORDER ON TARAPUR FUEL SHIPMENT. NEWSOM NOTED THAT HEARINGS HAVE BEEN SCHEDULED TENTATIVELY FOR MAY 23 BEFORE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE AT WHICH ADMINISTRATION IS EXPECTED TO REVIEW ITS STAND ON THE SHIPMENT. NEWSOM STATED THAT WE CONTINUE TO EXPECT THE EXECUTIVE ORDER TO STAND AND THE SHIPMENT TO BE MADE. HE WENT ON TO EXPRESS OUR HOPE THAT NOTHING WILL BE SAID PUBLICLY ON EITHER SIDE THAT WILL FURTHER COMPLICATE THE ISSUE. PALKHIVALA AGREED WHOLEHEARTEDLY WITH THIS SENTIMENT.

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2. IN REVIEWING INDIAN VIEWS ON FULL-SCOPE SAFEGUARDS, PALKHIVALA POINTED TO TWO PROBLEMS WITH THE U.S. APPROACH WHICH HE FELT WERE NOT FULLY APPRECIATED. ONE IS THAT A TERMINATION OF NUCLEAR COOPERATION WITH THE U.S. WOULD INEVITABLY LEAD THE GOI TO SEEK TO DEVELOP ITS OWN MEANS OF PRODUCING ENRICHED FUEL, A MOVE STRONGLY SUPPORTED BY THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY AND WHOSE IMPACT WOULD BE TO "CREATE

PROLIFERATION" AND THUS DEFEAT THE PURPOSES OF THE NON-PROLIFERATION ACT. PALKHIVALA ALSO STRESSED THE DEPTH OF DOMESTIC FEELING IN INDIA WITH THE MEDIA ALREADY CRITICAL OF DESAI'S ALLEGEDLY SOFT STAND TOWARD THE U.S. PALKHIVALA STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF CARRYING OUT THE MOTIONS OF A DIALOGUE IF THE ISSUE IS NOT TO OVERWHELM THE BROAD-ER BILATERAL INDO-U.S. RELATIONSHIP. NEWSOM EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING ABOUT THE DEPTH TO WHICH NATIONALIST FEELING MIGHT RUN ON THIS ISSUE, AGREED WITH THE NEED TO KEEP IN PERSPECTIVE THE INTEREST OF BOTH COUNTRIES IN A BROAD COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP, BUT REMINDED THE AMBASSADOR THAT OUR CONSTRAINTS WOULD CONTINUE TO INCLUDE CURRENT LEGISLATION AS WELL AS THE SEPARATE AND INDEPENDENT ROLES OF THE NRC AND CONGRESS.

3. PALKHIVALA ALSO INQUIRED WHETHER ANY FURTHER INDICATION IS AVAILABLE TO US ON THE DIRECTION IN WHICH THE NEW AFGHAN GOVERNMENT IS MOVING. HE NOTED THAT THE ANTECEDENTS OF THE NEW REGIME'S LEADERSHIP WERE CLEARLY SOVIET AND COMMUNIST ORIENTED BUT THE GOI BELIEVEA IT IS STILL TOO EARLY TO DRAW ANY DEFINITIVE CONCLUSION ABOUT ITS ORIENTATION. IN ADDITION TO RECEIVING ASSURANCES ABOUT GOA COMMITMENT TO GENUINE NON-ALIGNMENT THE AFGHANS HAD INFORMED THE INDIANS THAT THEY WISHED TO SEE NEW DELHI'S ALREADY CONSIDERABLE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM EXPAND-CONFIDENTIAL

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ED. NEWSOM RESPONDED ALONG THE LINES OF
STATE 118510. VANCE

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NNN

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